

Famous Loves of Famous Americans

By Robert Stephens

IV--Benedict Arnold and Margaret Shippen

It may be questioned whether it is proper to include the love story of Benedict Arnold among those of famous Americans. There was a time when Arnold was famous. It was not for long. Then he took the cloak of infamy and history ranks him second only to Judas. Today, but for his love only to Judas. Today, but for his love only to Judas. Today, but for his love only to Judas.

A pretty face and a graceful form always had a powerful attraction for Benedict Arnold. Better men than he have been known to have had the same weakness. He was vain and masterful. Women admired him and flattered him. There was a reason for this admiration. He was handsome, generous, and when in the company of those who were congenial, a delightful companion. There was about him, too, the glamour of force. As a soldier he had a spark of genius. Physically, he was the bravest of the brave.

Picture him then one day as he appeared in June in 1778 when at the head of the American army he entered the city of Philadelphia. He was 35. The nation rang with his praise. At Saratoga less than a year before he had won, under the most dramatic conditions, a battle that Cressy classes among the 15 decisive engagements of the world. Flouted, insulted and relieved of his command by the incompetent Gates, he had been unable to stir by while the battle raged. Jumping on his horse's back he had raced to where the fighting was fiercest. The Americans were giving way. He rallied first one regiment and then another. His presence was an inspiration. The tide turned with his coming. Not till the day was won did a messenger, sent by Gates to arrest Arnold, overtake him. The messenger found Arnold desperately wounded. He had been shot through the same leg in which the British had crippled him in the valorous assault at Quebec.

Pretty Peggy Shippen. Arnold loved appraise. He got plenty of it that day in June, 1778, in Philadelphia town. The crutch and the cane he had to use to get about only added to his distinction. The people were only too happy to give him their attention. There was a great banquet that night and there Arnold met Margaret Shippen. For the remainder of that evening he had eyes only for pretty Peggy.

Of all the girls of Philadelphia in that day there was none to compare with Peggy Shippen. Her father, Edward Shippen, was one of the rich men of a city noted for the beauty of its women. She was just 18. To Arnold, who for more than three years had known all the hardships of war, she was a revelation. She was brilliant in conversation, had a complexion that was wonderful, and her manner with men was regal and tantalizing. Arnold fell in love with her at first sight. She may have loved him later. Certainly she did not love him at first. A man of 35, no matter how distinguished, is not the one to strike at sight the spark of love in a maid of 18, especially if that maid is at heart a bit of a flirt, and has rather tender regard for another and more attractive man. Girls of 18 think men of 35 are old, and they may respect but they are likely to balk at lovers who are lame.

Poor Peggy! Whatever her feelings toward Arnold then, it was necessary that she should not offend him. He had been appointed military governor of Philadelphia, and the Shippens, who had been open sympathizers with the British, would be saved from such embarrassment if they had his friendship. The home of the Shippens had been the meeting point of all the bright and gay young officers during

the British occupation. There were three of the Shippens girls, all pretty, all cultivated, and all magnetic. Heart and soul their sympathies were with the British. Of all the men who paid court to pretty Peggy, none was more devoted than the handsome major John Andre, who danced divinely, who wrote poems to her eyes, her hair and her lips, and made sketches of her some of which are still preserved.

In Love With a Tory. Never had Philadelphia been gayier than during the British occupation. Never had it known such an entertainment as the Michingons which Andre planned occasionally in honor of William Howe, but more for the delight of the women folk. It was a water carnival, a tournament, a masquerade and a ball all in one. It was held on the estate of Joseph Wharton, at Walnut Grove, and from 10 o'clock on the Delaware. Twelve knights and 12 squires appeared in the tournament, each knight and squire selecting the lady of his choice for whose favor he would do battle in the lists. Andre wore the colors of pretty Peggy.

The open favor Margaret Shippen found in the eyes of Benedict Arnold was displeasing to many men and women of Philadelphia, who had suffered discomforts and indignities owing to their devotion to the patriot cause. Some were wise enough to voice their displeasure to Arnold. Criticism made him only more set in purpose.

Washington Responsible. Washington was responsible for making Arnold military governor. No more unfit appointment could have been made. Arnold's best qualities were those that won distinction for him on the battlefield. In any position requiring tact he was sure to blunder. In some things he looked even common sense. While not quarrelsome, he had a rare faculty for making enemies. He was impulsive and wilful, but kindly, and never could understand why many persons took offense at things he did and passed unnoticed gross acts committed by others.

Head over heels in love with the pretty Tory, Arnold took no pains to hide the fact. Instead, he gloried in it. The staunch Continentals were scandalized. Arnold resented their sour looks and their gossip and proceeded to give cause to them to think worse of him and say more about him. He spent money lavishly on entertainments. Apparently it did not matter to him that the patriot army was half starved and half clothed. The entertainments were to dazzle the woman he loved and make her forget the man who wrote sonnets about her and danced so well with her. Fine entertainments are necessary to a pretty woman forget a gay, lively, clever sweetheart in favor of one older and possibly doomed to limp for life.

Ugly stories were circulated as to how Arnold got the money he spent so freely. There had been charges against him in connection with his Canadian campaign. There is no reason to believe he personally was dishonest in the affair, but he had not kept his accounts straight. He was a better soldier than bookkeeper.

The Wedding and Honeymoon. Arnold ignored the gossip and proceeded with his girl making. The girl was shy, his girls of her age are likely to be, but that only made him more pressing. At last she consented and they were married early in April, 1778. Two weeks before the wedding Arnold bought a fine old country estate called Mount Pleasant, in Fairmount Park. This was to be his country home. His town house was a grand mansion, which had been built by governor Richard Penn, grandson of William Penn.

As far as Arnold could make it, his country estate was as great an affair as he could make it. But some sturdy old patriots refused to attend. Marriage only seemed to increase Arnold's love. Nothing was too much for him to do to show devotion to his



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beautiful wife. He lived far beyond his means. He kept a coach and four, had many lackeys in uniform, gave grand dinners frequently and lived more ostentatiously and extravagantly than had Sir William Howe. Most of the guests were from the fashionable set, which was made up of the Tories. Occasionally there was a member of congress at dinner, or officers of the army, or visiting celebrities from abroad. As Arnold had lived in true Republican simplicity before his marriage, his new style of living was ascribed to the influence of his wife.

This marked the beginning of his downfall. The more extravagances Ar-

nold indulged in the more he seemed to desire. To pay the bills of his establishments would have taken \$25,000 a year—a far more imposing sum than it is today, and that takes no account of jewels and gowns for his wife.

The beautiful Mrs. Arnold dressed exquisitely. She was the rage and the fashion, and, incidentally, the most talked-about woman of Pennsylvania. Of course the stories of Arnold's riotous expenditures were common talk in the army. He had many bitter enemies and many earnest friends. His enemies hinted that he got the money for his high living through speculation, and they revived the tales connected with

the Canadian campaign which had ended in a court martial in which Arnold, while declared not guilty, did not come out with his honor unimpaired. His friends ascribed his present method of living to the infatuation of the man for the beautiful girl. They predicted it would not last long. The honeymoon hardly was over. Men sober down a good deal after the first flush of matrimony.

Interruption of Love Dream. While the gossip still was busy an event happened that brought matters to a crisis. The Supreme Executive council of Pennsylvania preferred charges against the general. The mem-

bers of the council were a lot of stiff-necked, uncompromising patriots. Arnold had tactlessly and unnecessarily quarreled with them at the beginning of his administration and each day had added to the hatred they held for each other.

Many of the eight charges preferred were trivial, but some were not. Arnold was away on a visit to general Washington when the charges were sent broadcast. He demanded an immediate court martial. He had been branded as a thief and he wanted a chance to prove his innocence. Washington, who had a great affection for him, tried to have his desires, but various persons who detested Arnold managed to have the case delayed many months. Arnold, high spirited, fiery tempered, and impatient in his anger, hardly could contain himself during this period. It was a cruel way to treat a man who had sacrificed a private fortune and shed his blood for his country's cause. Arnold saw nothing of his own shortcomings and misdeeds. He ascribed all his troubles to his ill-wishers in the army and in congress. He pointed out how various times despite the recommendations of Washington, how he had been humiliated, insulted and abused in return for the services he had rendered the cause, and how now, when among other things he was charged with treachery, even the justice of a speedy trial was denied to him. No one who does not know the character of Arnold can appreciate how the months of delay in getting his case tried affected him. When, finally, he got a hearing, he conducted his argument ably, and, he thought, convincingly. Much to his surprise and chagrin, the court martial's finding, while in the general's opinion, declared he had been most imprudent and his fault in the connection was so great that he should receive a public reprimand.

Peggy Arnold's Queenship Ends. That, to Arnold, seemed a disgrace. What did his services mean? George Washington was delegated to administer the reprimand. Nothing could have been more distasteful to Washington. He reprimanded Arnold, in the presence of the army, but the reprimand had all the kindness and courtesy Washington could put into it and still carry out the letter of the verdict.

Arnold resigned at once as governor of Philadelphia. Much as he took to heart the sorrows of his young wife more to her change in his situation was a great calamity. It meant an end to her queenship in society and an end to the great dinners and parties. Without gaiety and all the social pleasures, life did not seem to her to be worth living. She was young; the serious things of life did not appeal to her.

The tears of a girl wife are enough to affect a young husband, not to mention a middle-aged one. Arnold, feeling that his army career was ended, determined to go to western New York and there take up a great stretch of land and develop an estate which would make him a man of wealth. He told Washington of his plan and the general advised against it.

The commander-in-chief, out of the kindness of his heart, sought to rectify, so far as he could, such injustice as had been done to Arnold. In order that Arnold might rehabilitate himself, Washington proposed that he take command of the division of the Hudson—the most important military division in his gift.

Poor Benedict Arnold! Never did man show greater faith in him than did George Washington; never did man make fouler return than did the hero of Saratoga and Quebec.

Arnold went to the Hudson and assumed command. With him went his wife, and she was dearer to him now

than ever, for she had presented a son to him.

A Queer Trick of Fate. At West Point, or maybe before he got there, Arnold got in communication with the British. As fate would have it, the man with whom he held communication was the same Andre who had been a suitor for the hand of pretty Peggy Shippen. These are some historic facts who say that Peggy Shippen kept up a correspondence with Andre from the time he was in Philadelphia, and that she laid bare to Andre her husband's wrongs or fancied wrongs and the feelings he entertained and the feelings she entertained. At any rate, Andre, clever, diplomatic, suave, was sent by general Clinton to deal with Arnold. It was not a task that Andre liked. He was a soldier, so he obeyed orders. Arnold sold himself, and sold his honor, sold his country, and sold his soul. He agreed for money and for office to strip the posts along the Hudson of English to capture West Point and all the fortifications along the majestic river. This would at one stroke cut the young Republic in two and accomplish what Burgoyne and Clinton had sought to do and failed. How by chance Andre was caught; how Arnold, advised of Andre's capture, fled from Stony Point to the British warship Vulture and escaped; how Washington and Lafayette, arriving at Stony Point, found pretty Peggy in convulsions, it is history. It is history, too, that the one letter from Arnold to Washington after the great betrayal was a plea that the general protect pretty Peggy from any danger that might befall her through Arnold's deed of treachery.

The English kept their bargain with Arnold. They made a major general of him. He added to his infamy by a barbarous raid upon the Virginia coast in which he burned and slew his fellow countrymen. He increased the hatred of Americans by the atrocities for which he was responsible on the expedition to New London. There is a story told of a conversation he had with an American prisoner.

"What," Arnold asked, "do you suppose they would do to me if they caught me?"

"They would," the man, "they would cut off that leg that was wounded at Quebec and at Saratoga and bury it with the honors of war, and then they would hang the rest of you on the highest gibbet in the land."

Peggy Shippen's Sad Fate.

When the war ended, Arnold went to England. He was a pariah. In very few houses was he welcome. Americans shunned him as if he were a leper. The English never did love a traitor. Wretched, indeed, was the life of Arnold through the following years. He left the army and sought to make a living as a merchant. He made one or two trips to Canada, but did not dare venture into the United States. Everywhere he went, he was pointed out as the vile being who had betrayed his native land.

Peggy Shippen was a better wife to Benedict after the great betrayal than before. His misfortune seemed to awaken in her a greater love. She bore three children to him and then she died heart broken.

Arnold, universally execrated, almost homeless, wandered the world over. He outlived his wife nearly a score of years. When it came time for him to die, he put on the old uniform he wore as an American general, with the epaulettes and the sword knots which Washington had given to him as the bravest of the brave, and then, in anguish, he threw himself down. "Let me die in this," he said, "the uniform in which I fought my battles. God forgive me for ever putting on any other." Copyright, 1914, by the Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.

Next week: The love story of Alexander Hamilton and Lucy Schuyler.

ABE MARTIN

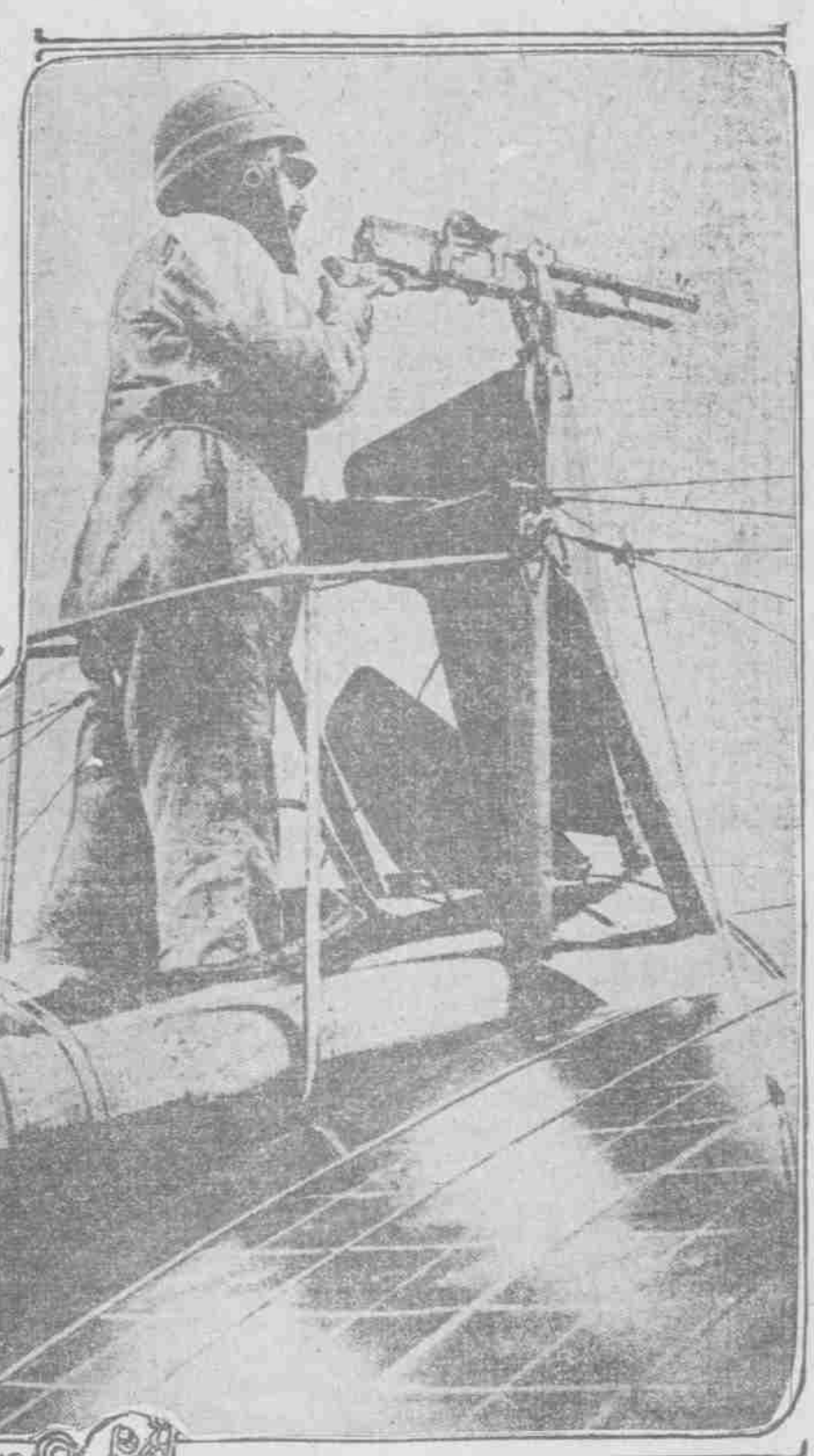


Next it's a painter climbin' around over a scaffold their haint nothin' as cute an' cunnin' as a pet parrot. When I look at some rich folks I don't blame fortune fer smilin'.

THE ARMING OF THE AEROPLANE

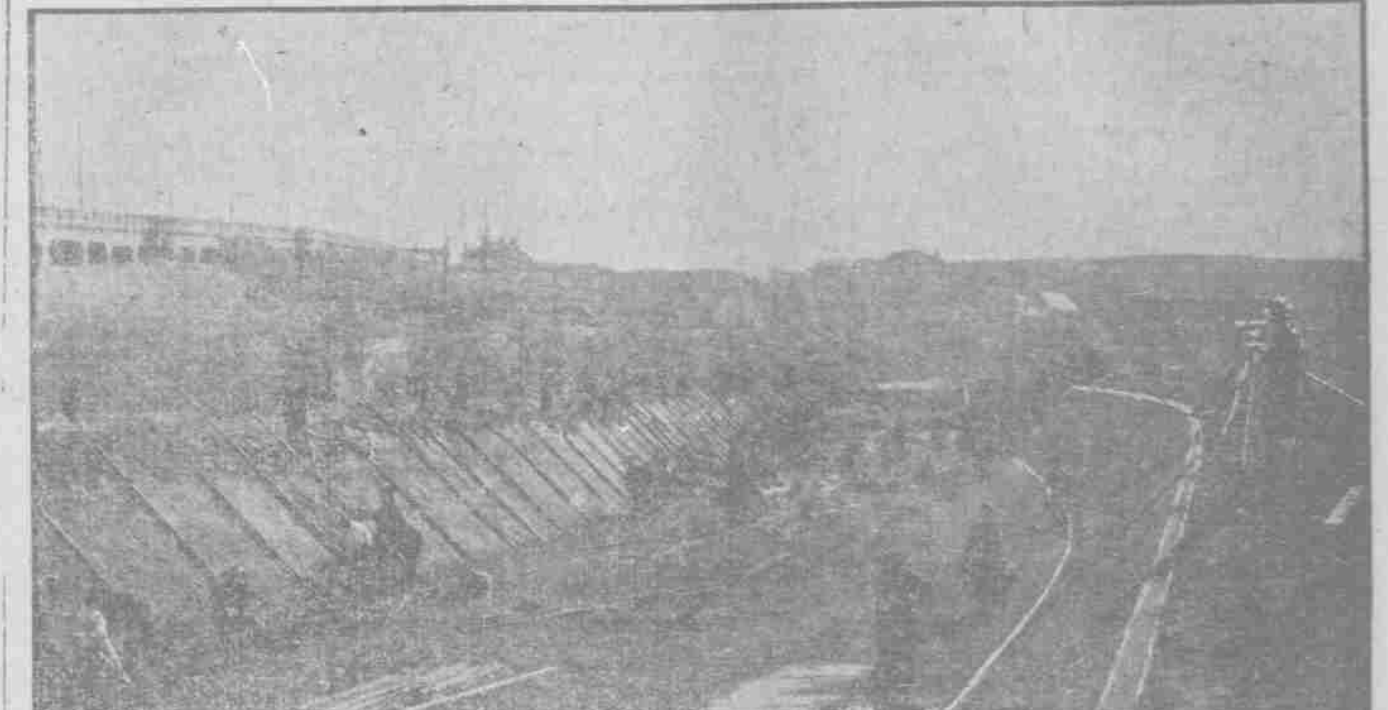
Emigration Decreases, Steamships Cancel Dates For Sailing to America

London, Eng., March 21.—The tide of westward emigration has slackened decidedly. Four steamships scheduled to sail within the next month have had their advertised departures cancelled. At this time last year it was impossible to get even a third class berth on an English liner going to Canada without an order several weeks in advance. The migration toward Australia continues but diminished in comparison with last year. It is expected to increase soon, however, with the first trial of the government plan to assist English lads in places of apprenticeship among south Australian farmers. Under legislation passed last session, the commissioner of crown lands and immigration is empowered to act as guardian of boys taking advantage of the plan, and ample safeguards have been placed above the interests of the boys as well as the rights of their employers. The first party of boys for Australia will leave Liverpool late this month.

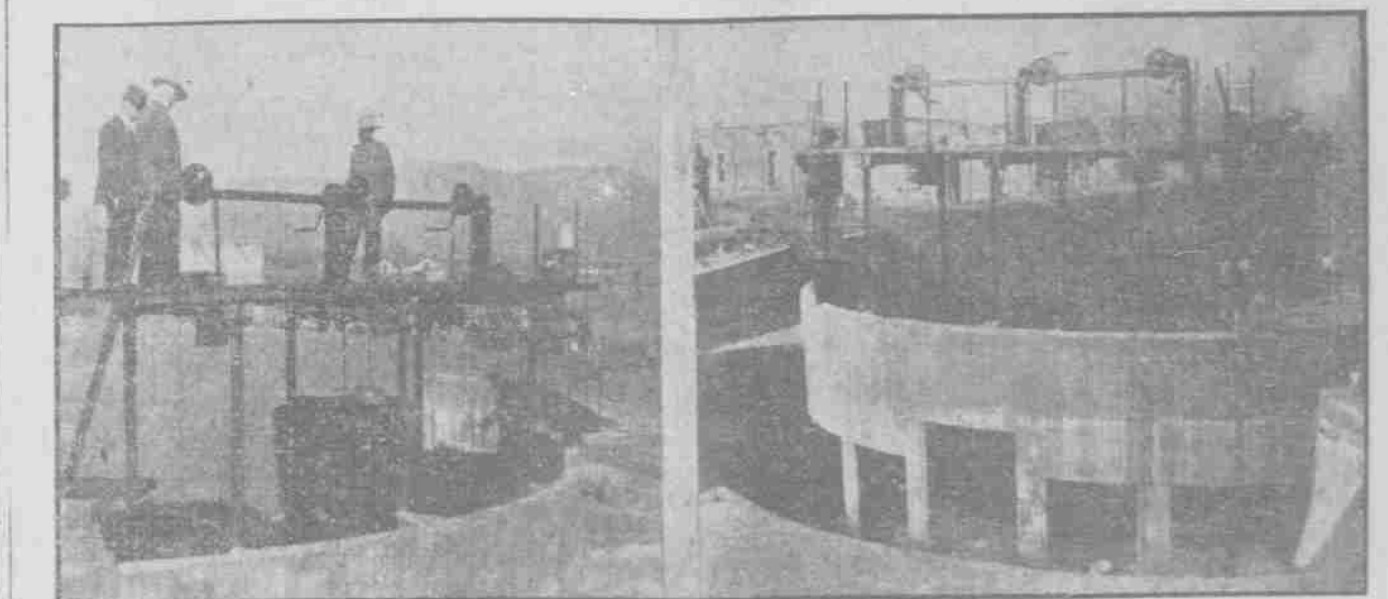


Capt. Destouches, and although great secrecy was observed concerning the result of the tests it is understood that they were very satisfactory. A MACHINE GUN ON A NEW FRENCH AEROPLANE; SIGHTING THE WEAPON.

Rebuilding El Paso's Great Irrigation Canal



ONE THOUSAND men have been drawing government pay in El Paso for many weeks while they have been busy widening and lining the Franklin canal, which heads at El Paso and is intended to carry water 35 to 45 miles down the valley to irrigate the vast acreage of fertile lands under this section of the Rio Grande project. While the reclamation service engineers will make no promises, it is expected that the work on the canal will be practically completed this month and that there will be no serious delay in the early irrigation work of the valley farmers. The work on the Franklin canal means a total additional investment of nearly \$200,000.



WHILE the canal throughout the city of El Paso is concrete lined and floored and is to be improved with concrete and steel bridges, the remainder of its length is banked with dirt, and a roadway will run along the outer or river bank where the canal follows closely along the river. All canal structures, however, are of steel and concrete, including spillways, headings, gates, drops, and takeouts. These pictures show the new concrete and steel drop at Val Verde just on the eastern edge of the city. The drop is built on a new design. When the gates are closed the water is held back and raised in level so as to irrigate the lands above. When the gates are opened the level above lowers and the water passes through large holes, dropping vertically and then passing out below in a fan shape, all calculated to retard and equalize the velocity of the water. The gates are steel cylinders, raised by hand windlasses and operating as easily when the canal is full as when it is empty. The left-hand picture shows chief engineer A. P. Davis and consulting engineer L. C. Hill standing on the bridge of the structure.

THIS striking picture was taken during recent tests with armed aeroplanes at Villacoublay, France, and illustrates how far that country is pushing its tests of air machines for use in time of war.

In the picture the rapid fire gun is mounted on a Deperdussin biplane. The gun is placed above the forward of the fuselage, and the gunner stands up while operating it. The gunnery tests were carried out by